

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
FINANCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

August 2, 2023

Mr. Alan Shaw
President and CEO
Norfolk Southern Corporation
650 W. Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

Mr. Shaw:

I write regarding your company's debts resulting from its March 4, 2023, 28-car train derailment in Springfield, Ohio. Norfolk Southern is delinquent in making payments to Clark County, the Clark County Sheriff's Office, and other Ohio agencies for the damages, repairs and the costs of emergency services provided following the derailment. I urge you to promptly pay what you owe to these state and local entities for the damage you caused to this Ohio community.

On March 4th, 28 cars from a Norfolk Southern train passing through Springfield derailed and crashed alongside a busy road. The derailment damaged local infrastructure including power lines and caused blackouts for 1,500 Ohioans. Clark County first responders and Hazmat teams were quick to arrive on the scene and their work ensured the safety of surrounding residents.

This was the seventh Norfolk Southern derailment in Ohio in a year and it happened just a month after the disaster in East Palestine. Your full cooperation and repayment is essential to making the people of Ohio whole. That includes living up to your side of the bargain and paying for all damages incurred. Accordingly, I expect Norfolk Southern to fully reimburse the first responders – county sheriff, local police and fire – and Clark County businesses, and the government of Clark County, for damages, repairs, and emergency response resulting from the derailment.

Despite the fact that Clark County, the Clark County Sheriff's Office, and local businesses have all submitted invoices to Norfolk Southern, I understand your company has failed to make timely payments after lengthy delays in processing. The Clark County Sheriff's Office Finance Director attempted to call and left voicemails at least five separate times to advise your company of its legal duty to make prompt payments, after the County sent documentation and corresponded over e-mail about the delinquent payment for submitted invoices. It should not be this difficult for Ohio first responders to get reimbursed for cleaning up your mess.

This is not the first time that I've had to intervene on behalf of Ohioans affected by Norfolk Southern derailments. Just three months ago, I wrote to you about compensating the City of

Sandusky for repair work done after the October derailment. I should not have to keep reminding Norfolk Southern to pay what it owes to Ohio communities.

Ohioans are rightfully concerned about the safety of railroads traveling through their communities. The Norfolk Southern derailments in Ohio have highlighted many known freight rail industry deficiencies in safety practices.

Norfolk Southern must take responsibility for the damages and costs borne by the first responders and businesses of Springfield and Clark County. Your full and continued cooperation is expected, and I prompt resolution of and payment for the costs incurred as a result of the Springfield derailment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator